

# Honoring All Who Served

WHETHER IN QUIET REFLECTION OR PUBLIC CEREMONY, THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE THE VETERANS WHO ANSWERED OUR NATION'S CALL TO DUTY IN THE QUEST FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

## DEFENSE AND HOMELAND SECURITY SECTOR GROWING

Michigan businesses generate more than \$4 billion in defense and homeland security contracts each year.

The Senate-initiated Defense Contract Coordination Center has helped drive growth in this vital sector, serving as a link between military buyers and Michigan manufacturers. Government contracts grew from \$315.5 million in fiscal year 2007 to more than \$760.5 million last year. Find out more at [www.michiganadvantage.org](http://www.michiganadvantage.org).

In related news, border security along the US-Canadian border recently got a boost from \$30 million awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to create an Intelligence Operations Center at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Macomb County.

The center will collect, analyze and share security intelligence among the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Michigan State Police and other law enforcement agencies.

## November 2009

### Senator John Pappageorge



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## WE MUST NEVER FORGET

As we remember and honor the servicemen and women who have served our country this Veterans Day, it's important that we never forget those who remain missing from past and current wars and we continue the search for those unaccounted.

In Michigan alone, over 400 service members remain missing, according to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, including:

- ★ 361 from the Korean War
- ★ 53 from the Vietnam War
- ★ 4 from the Cold War
- ★ 1 soldier from Iraq

A solemn ceremony was held in the State Capitol rotunda on September 18 to mark the annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day.



# HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

## PAPPAGEORGE TAKES THE LEAD ON MEASURES DESIGNED TO HELP VETERANS

Senator Pappageorge continues to look at ways, large and small, to support those who protect us. Legislation the senator has sponsored includes:

- ★ PA 133 of 2008 (SB 751) – increases the percentage goal for awarding state construction, goods, and service contracts to qualified disabled veterans.
- ★ SB 313 – Clarifies in law that a state construction contract preference shall be given to businesses owned by qualified disabled veterans.
- ★ SB 748 – Provides a tuition waiver for disabled veterans.
- ★ SB 749 – Creates a special “Gold Star Family” license plate for the spouse, parent, sibling, or child of a member of the armed services who died during combat.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

### AMERICA’S LIVING VETERANS

World War I.....	1
World War II .....	2,306,000
Korean War .....	2,307,000
Vietnam War .....	7,125,600
Desert Shield/Desert Storm .....	2,269,000

Department of Veterans Affairs November 2008

Of the 25 million living veterans, most (75 percent) served during a war or an official period of hostility.



*The Memorial Day ceremony holds a special place in Michigan Senate tradition as legislators and citizens pause together to remember the sacrifice of America’s true heroes.*

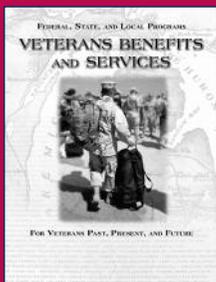
## MICHIGAN SENATE REMEMBERS

The Michigan Senate opened session on Thursday, May 21 with a solemn tribute to our fallen heroes.

For the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year, the special Senate Memorial Day service honored the servicemen and women who gave their lives in defense of freedom. The 2009 ceremony recognized the 15 soldiers and sailors from Michigan who were killed in action over the previous 12 months.

The program featured two inspiring speakers. Lieutenant Colonel Greg Durkac of the Michigan Army National Guard, spoke of the men and women in uniform today, and characterized them as the next Greatest Generation. LTC Durkac commanded a battalion of 1,200 soldiers in Iraq in 2008.

Mike Kilpela of Fowlerville offered a compelling perspective on the pride and sacrifice shouldered by Gold Star families. Mr. Kilpela’s son Andy, a Lance Corporal in the Marines, was killed in action in Iraq by a terrorist IED in June 2005.



## MICHIGAN VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

Click on the book for information about obtaining veterans benefits and services available through federal, state, and local agencies.



## PAPPAGEORGE SUPPORTS MADE IN THE USA BILL

American flags should be made in America – especially if they’re flying over state government buildings.

New Senate legislation does just that. SB 48 requires American and state of Michigan flags flown over state-owned buildings to be made in the United States.

With so many products manufactured overseas, the least we can do is make sure the flag - the proud symbol of our country - is made here.

The bill awaits action in the House.